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# CITE<sub>EXTENSION</sub>



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# M

## Mississippi Professor Archiving Novels by Blacks

Jodi Horigan

Seven years ago, **Maryemma Graham**, then an English professor at the University of Mississippi, had a thought that wouldn't go away...how would views about black literature change if there were an archive of every novel ever written by an American black? No one, reports the August 6 issue of *Insights* magazine, had surveyed the gamut of black novels from what is regarded as the first (**William Wells Brown's** *Clotel, or the President's Daughter*, published in 1853 in London) down to present day.

Graham says there is a lot of coverage for contemporary black writers, such as **James Baldwin** and **Toni Morrison**, but many who published prior to World War II are "obscured by the mists of the past and of prejudice."

### Combining Libraries

Graham knew about three major collections of

black literature and culture: the **James Weldon Johnson** collection at Fisk University in Nashville, **Howard University's** Moorland-Spingarn Research Center in Washington, DC, and the **Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture**, a division of the New York Public Library. But she felt it would be amiss to rely just on these.

So she and her researchers went to libraries at smaller, historically black colleges and to public libraries in towns with sizable black populations. They were helped by retired librarians who had worked at segregated facilities, many of whom knew what had happened to collections when these libraries merged after integration.

### Rich Literature Source Results

Using these personal interviews with librarians, plus finding a wealth of titles in bulletins from black

churches, whose church presses often published books, Graham has amassed more than 1,000 titles. She was also aided by people who, hearing of her project, sent in "stacks of books in brown paper bags." The books reflect buried observations of black culture as viewed by blacks.

### Many Uses for Black Literature

Extension communicators can find many uses for such a collection. Little-known black authors offer unique commentaries on the lives and times of the black population. Some tell of the horrors of slavery, designed principally to inspire Union Soldiers to fight harder to stop the atrocities purportedly inflicted on all slaves. Others reveal racism within the race, between members with darkest skin and those who could "pass for white." Not all writers singled out the South. **Harriet E.**

**Wilson** described the degrading lives of blacks in 19th century Massachusetts—blacks not under the onus of slavery, but nonetheless objects of racial hatred.

To writers seeking different stories for National Black History Month, stories to underscore the progress made by our 1890 institutions during this anniversary year, and other historical views of our black culture, such an archive could provide an abundance of insight into the cultural development of our black population.

Graham's project, helped by the Ford Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, has completed a data base of existing titles. Researchers are also still seeking titles and welcome book donations. If you know of additional title sources, or wish data base information, contact **Dr. Graham** in care of **Afro-American Studies**, 132 Nightingale, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115.



# N

## National Extension Staff Videoconference Announced

Tom Willis

**Myron D. Johnsrud**, ES Administrator, and **Patrick Borich**, Chair, ECOP, and Minnesota Extension Dean and Director, recently announced that ES-USDA and the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) will jointly sponsor a National Staff Videoconference Thursday, October 18, 2:00-4:00, p.m., e.d.t. They issued an invitation for CES staff across the Nation to join in an open exchange of ideas and information.

### On The Menu

Satellite uplinks from various sites across the

country will allow Extension professionals to give live reports to update us on the National Initiatives and the Strategic Planning Council. The ECOP committees on Program Leadership and Personnel and Organizational Development will also report on their activities. Of particular interest to communicators will be participation of the Futuristic Applications of Commercial Technology (FACT) Committee, and a summary of the report, *High Technology Needs of Commercial Agriculture*. A large time segment will be devoted to answering phoned-in questions and viewpoints.

### First from Ag\*Sat

This videoconference will be the first program coordinated through the new Ag Sat Network. The program will be broadcast on both C-band and Ku-band signals. The C-band coordinates are: Weststar IV, transponder 10-direct, channel 19, frequency 4080 MHz, audio 6.2 and 6.8. The Ku-band coordinates are: SBS 5, channel 10, frequency 12166 MHz, audio 6.2 and 6.8.

To help make this a significant CES event, Extension Directors and Administrators have been asked to appoint a coordinator to work along with ES-USDA in organizing

and promoting this conference. Tom Willis, CIT Public Affairs Specialist, will act as teleconference coordinator here, collecting the roster of state coordinators. Tom can be reached at 202-447-2047, or via FAX at 202-475-5289.

We encourage our state communicators to assist in every possible way to help states take part in this unique opportunity.

# S

## Space Age Technology Generates International Teleconference

On September 20, from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m., P.d.t., California Polytechnic State University and PBS Adult Learning Satellite Service (ALSS) will air the First International Teleconference on Natural Resource Management in the Americas. The fee is

\$250 for ALSS members, \$300 for others, with no charge for taping. Closed circuit or noncommercial cable re-broadcast will also be allowed.

### Rain Forests Center Stage

This year's teleconference will highlight

South American Rain Forests. Key concepts of "Sustainable Development" (SD) will be introduced, and successful SD projects shown.

The event will also feature live presentations by rain forest experts and government and private sector representatives.

Questions from audience members, via telephone or FAX, will be directed to presenters.

For details, call the PBS Adult Learning Service at 1-800-257-2578.

# D

## Doug Darden Victim of Heart Attack

**Dr. Douglas W. Darden**, 55, Chair of the Department of Agricultural Communication at the University of Kentucky, died Sunday, August 19, of a heart at-

tack. Darden, a native of Tuscaloosa, AL, had planned to retire at year's end. He had been at the University of Kentucky since 1984. Prior to his Kentucky post, he served as State Leader of Com-

munications for the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. Expressions of con-

dolence may be sent to his wife, Mary, at 1831 Bel-lafonte, Lexington, KY 40503. His colleagues in agricultural communications will miss his cooperation and leadership.



# Risk Communication Workshops Planned

Notices of two Risk Communication and Assessment Training Workshops went out to Extension Service Directors and Administrators on August 16. Planned for October 25-27, in Charlotte, NC, and November 8-10, in Denver CO, these workshops will

cover a wide range of information designed to strengthen Extension education programs for the Nation's food and water supplies.

States were asked to put together training teams comprised of members who must communicate information about

risks to clientele, whether those risks relate to food safety, water quality, or other environmental concerns. **Cliff Scherer**, Cornell University communications researcher, is developing the training materials and managing the workshops in cooperation with ES-USDA staff.

Our CIT staff sent detailed information to state Communication Heads August 27. For additional information, contact **Pat Calvert**, CIT Deputy Director, at 202-447-6133.

## OH RATS!

**Steve Sugar**, in the August issue of *Performance & Instruction (P&I)*, shares with readers an interesting game that can help managers determine the ability of various groups of employees to reach a decision consensus. Sugar's observation had been that groups of people are much better at solving problems than they are at making a decision.

To test his hypothesis, he put together a game, explained in detail in *P&I* magazine, that uses Dr. Sarnoff Mednick's test, designed to measure creativity, called the *Remote Association Test*, or RAT.

### Taking the Test

To tantalize you, we are including a copy of the test. The object is to find

the best common link word for each set of clues.

Taking the first set as an example, examine the words *law*, *birthday*, and *swim*. What one word, placed before or after each word in each set, could be used to commonly link them? Answer? **SUIT**. In this case, **suit** comes after each word, but this is not always the case.

To find out how you can use this test in a game

situation to analyze your staff's creativity and group decisionmaking abilities, call **Jodi Horigan** at 202-447-6145 for a FAX copy of the entire article. Oh, yes...you'll have to wait until September for a list of the answers. We wish you well—for language lovers, solving these word puzzles is as compelling as Rubic's Cube!

## Write to Read

### Attention, Communicators

Graphic Communications Association's (GCA) *TECHinfo* newsletter is a handy publication for keeping track of communications happenings from conferences to new publications on Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML). For subscription information, contact Graphic Communications Association, 1730 North Lynn St., Suite 604, Arlington, VA 22209-2085; telephone: 703-841-8160.

### Attention, Supervisors

Published by Professional Training Associates, Inc., *Practical Supervision* is a monthly magazine devoted to making you an assertive and responsive supervisor. Articles cover a wide subject range from "Making the Most of Employee Reviews" to "How to Handle the Constant Complainer." Relevant to anyone supervising any num-

ber of employees, it can be yours for \$48 a year. To subscribe, write Professional Training Associates, Inc., 212 Commerce Blvd., Round Rock, TX 78664.

### Attention, Site Coordinators

The Telecommunications Development Center (TDC), Minnesota Extension Service, University of Minnesota, offers *Receiving Video Teleconferences: A Site Coordinator's Handbook*. The 47-page handbook is divided into seven sections, taking the reader from the basic concepts of uplink/downlink, transponders, C-band, and Ku-band, through deciding what subject matter has the most potential for a successful teleconference, to tips and checklists for all aspects of arranging for a teleconference. Single-copy cost is \$14.95, with 25 or more copies discounted to \$11.95 each. For an order form, contact **Paul Lee**, TDC Communications Director, at 612-624-3616.

## Try Your Hand at Solving RATs!

Directions: Find the best common link word for each set of clues.

- |            |          |            |             |           |          |           |       |
|------------|----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------|
| 1. law     | birthday | swim       | <u>suit</u> | 7. end    | home     | out       | _____ |
| partner    | night    | butler     | _____       | color     | load     | key       | _____ |
| mower      | pack     | horse      | _____       | plate     | dog      | line      | _____ |
| bear       | comb     | moon       | _____       | candy     | big      | green     | _____ |
| twister    | lash     | tied       | _____       | coffee    | heart    | down      | _____ |
| 2. super   | ship     | gazer      | _____       | 8. plate  | lining   | fox       | _____ |
| sun        | back     | television | _____       | entry     | handed   | space     | _____ |
| down       | up       | sheet      | _____       | door      | bear     | sand      | _____ |
| trap       | market   | broken     | _____       | creek     | ship     | axe       | _____ |
| heart      | tooth    | talk       | _____       | maid      | hand     | fashioned | _____ |
| 3. play    | vision   | date       | _____       | 9. stay   | stream   | land      | _____ |
| brother    | sister   | knight     | _____       | blind     | sense    | guard     | _____ |
| paint      | doll     | cat        | _____       | wind      | goose    | play      | _____ |
| stool      | powder   | ball       | _____       | built     | maiden   | back      | _____ |
| cottage    | cake     | blue       | _____       | master    | roll     | back      | _____ |
| 4. toast   | poodle   | kiss       | _____       | 10. burn  | river    | arm       | _____ |
| bird       | top      | business   | _____       | world     | talks    | officer   | _____ |
| baseball   | debating | building   | _____       | nail      | law      | sense     | _____ |
| time       | horse    | chair      | _____       | snow      | music    | ice       | _____ |
| broil      | tower    | fog        | _____       | ball      | horse    | house     | _____ |
| 5. turkey  | shoulder | war        | _____       | 11. paper | worthy   | update    | _____ |
| heart      | fast     | down       | _____       | French    | stop     | knob      | _____ |
| stop       | off      | on         | _____       | stripe    | wheel    | tie       | _____ |
| floor      | play     | fair       | _____       | call      | pay      | line      | _____ |
| action     | lot      | odd        | _____       | burning   | end      | blue      | _____ |
| 6. shooter | teen     | pack       | _____       | 12. truck | man      | sure      | _____ |
| interest   | minded   | fracture   | _____       | tree      | Sunday   | reading   | _____ |
| strong     | hunter   | fore       | _____       | man       | wheel    | high      | _____ |
| worm       | shirt    | screen     | _____       | motion    | poke     | down      | _____ |
| fair       | boy      | ground     | _____       | line      | birthday | surprise  | _____ |

### Sources:

*Insights* magazine; August 6, 1990, issue.

*Ag in the Classroom Notes*, a bi-monthly newsletter published by the USDA Ag in the Classroom program, Room 317-A, Administration Bldg., Washington, DC 20250-2200.

*Performance & Instruction* magazine; National Society for Performance and Instruction, 1300 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005. Subscription information: 202-408-7969.

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